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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 700704



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 4 July 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

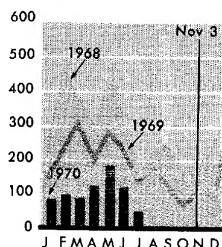
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

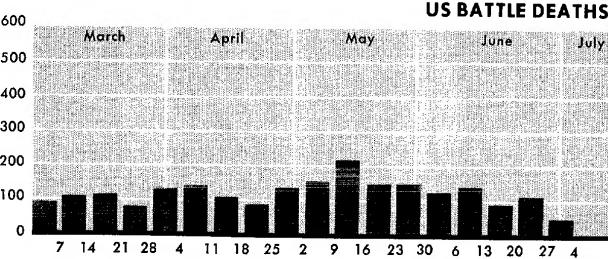
Weekly average for each month



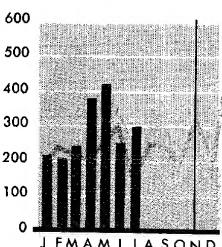
MARCH - JULY 1970

Weekly data as reported

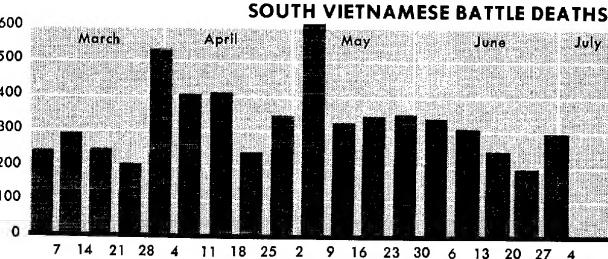
US BATTLE DEATHS



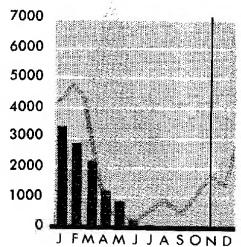
declined significantly to 61 from last week's 107. This marks the lowest weekly total of U.S. deaths in combat in over two and one half years.



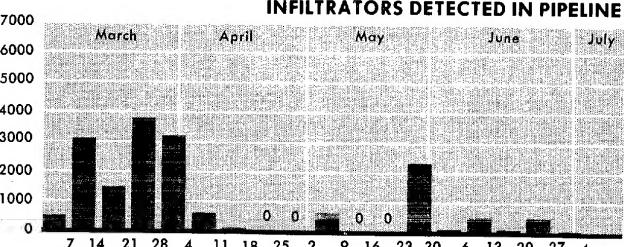
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



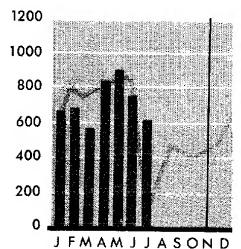
increased sharply to 292 over last week's 191. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.



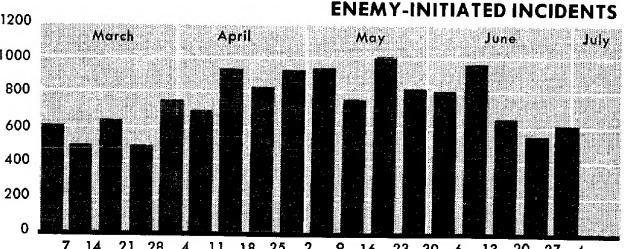
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



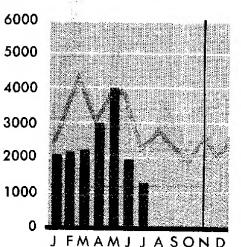
stand at two small specialist groups, with a probable strength of less than 50. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 remains at an estimated 60,500-62,000.



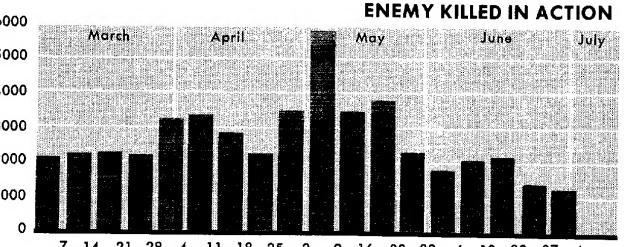
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



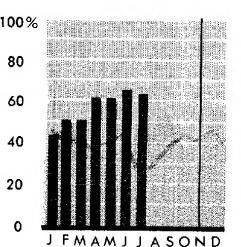
rose to 636 over last week's 556.



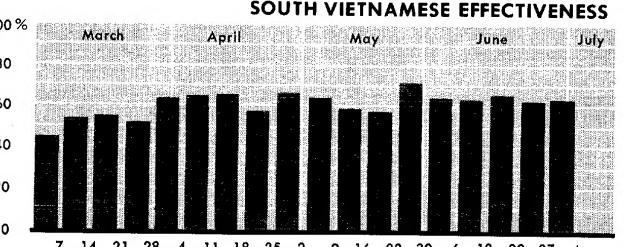
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



declined to 1,395 from last week's 1,474.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces rose slightly to 66% over last week's 63%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Communist-initiated activity in South Vietnam increased somewhat over the previous week, but the bulk of their effort consisted of indirect fire attacks. Sharp, but isolated ground actions occurred in both I and IV Corps and prospects appear likely in both areas for an increase in coordinated activity. Movement by elements of the 304th NVA Division toward the northern I Corps province of Quang Tri appears to be momentarily at a standstill, but they remain a potential threat to this region.

Seasonal rains have slowed down Communist logistical support to their forces in both north and south Laos; however, there are persistent reports that the enemy intends to expand his area of control westward in the southern panhandle. In the northwest, new photography shows clearing activity south of Muong Houn, the present terminus of the Chinese Communist built Nam Beng valley road. In Xieng Khouang Province, Royal Lao Government (RLG) forces are successfully defending their expanded perimeter around the Sam Thong-Long Tieng base complex against Communist forces based on the Plain of Jars. In the central panhandle, Military Region (MR) III, RLG irregulars have had some success harassing enemy forces protecting the infiltration/logistical corridor, but there are as yet no clear indications that the enemy will react with a large-scale clearing operation. In the southern panhandle, MR IV, RLG forces still hold two key paramilitary sites on the Bolovens Plateau and have been successfully harassing the enemy's Sekong River supply lines passing below the plateau.

In Cambodia, during the past week, the Communists continued light harassment of widely scattered areas of the country. Action picked up on 5 July when government defenders suffered over 100 casualties as Communist troops attacked the district town of Saang, 20 miles south of Phnom Penh. In the southeast, Svay Rieng City is again coming under increased Communist pressure. In addition to a minor ground action on the outskirts of the city, positions to the south and west of this provincial capital were attacked over the weekend. South Vietnamese forces in the area were also attacked by the Communists. North of Phnom Penh, the provincial capital of Kompong Thom is again being threatened.

Enemy Infiltration

Personnel infiltration into South Vietnam was limited to two small groups, probably composed of specialists. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 remains at an estimated 60,500-62,000.

South Vietnam Developments

In his discussions with Secretary Rogers over the weekend, President Thieu reiterated his view that while the Cambodian operations were beneficial to South Vietnam, he feared that Cambodia will become a serious drain on his nation's resources unless a greater international assistance effort could be mounted. He said that South Vietnam could provide assistance for the eastern and southeastern parts of Cambodia, but that the Thais should take over the defense of western Cambodia, and the Cambodians the central and southern areas. He thought it was essential that the Cambodian government initiate a pacification program immediately, or face the prospects of a long struggle to regain control of the population. In respect to land reform in South Vietnam, Thieu said he anticipates that the program will be completed by the end of 1972, with 200,000 hectares distributed in 1970, and 400,000 in each of 1971 and 1972.

President Thieu has called for drastic action, including the use of military force if necessary, to put down the continuing demonstrations being conducted by militants within the student and veterans organizations. He appears to be concerned about new student plans to foment disorders utilizing anti-war, anti-U.S. slogans, and reports that some veteran's leaders are planning to take up the peace cause and other issues not related to veteran's affairs. Militant Buddhists are also planning a new "peace campaign." While these groups do not constitute

an immediate threat to the government, their activities could be embarrassing at a time when there is renewed interest in Paris as a means of achieving a negotiated settlement of the war. The first implementation of this tougher policy occurred on the night of 4-5 July when police field forces began to dismantle shacks constructed illegally by the veterans.

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